

REMARKS

Claims 22-30 and 32-47 are pending, with claims 22, 29, 36 and 46 being independent. Claims 1-21 were cancelled by a previous amendment. Claim 31 is cancelled by this amendment. Claims 22-29 and 32-35 have been amended. Claims 43-47 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 22-28 and 36-42 and the indication that claims 31-33 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments after final because the amendments place the rejected claims in condition for allowance. Specifically, independent claim 29 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 31, which was indicated as allowable. Claim 31 has been cancelled. New independent claim 46 has been added to recite the subject matter from independent claim 29 and the subject matter of claim 33, which was indicated as allowable.

Furthermore, claims 36-42 remain unchanged and, therefore, allowed.

Applicants submit that amended claims 22-28 remain in condition for allowance. For example, amended independent claim 22 recites “when it is determined that the default values are obtained through the memory interface, determining from a header whether any default values of the network device should be updated,” which is subject matter that is not described, suggested or rendered obvious by any of the cited references.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments after final and issuance of a notice of allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 29, 30, 34 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Szczepanek et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,690,668) in view of Dewberry et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,425). As discussed above, Applicants have amended independent claim 29 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 31. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of independent claim 29 and its dependent claims 30, 34 and 35.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney (202-470-6457) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as intended to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Enclosed are excess claim fees in the amount of \$428. If necessary, please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3521, referencing Attorney Docket No. 0063-068002/BU2047.1C.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date October 8, 2009

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